The California Garden

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The 1917 Christmas Spirit

NEVER in its nine years of life did the California Garden more desire to send a greeting of real Christmas cheer to its readers and certainly never did it have so hard a time to formulate such. It is against all its traditions to invoke hilarity, because so many others in active contact with the awful European conditions are situated more uncomfortably, yet it certainly does not believe that mourning and sighing are of any use whatever, assuredly not to the other fellow and somewhere there is an echo of an old tradition that the best Christmas cheer was to be had by doing something a bit extra for that other fellow and smiling about it if a downright grin were impossible.

It is to be feared that the demands upon some of our citizens, perhaps a good many, for contributions to the thousand and one worthy causes that ask for help have been considerable tax, and some of the taxed are placed where refusing is difficult. The Garden suggests that for Christmas you each one of you do your darndest for everything and everybody AND LET THE OTHER FELLOW DO HIS FOR HIMSELF and in pursuance of this advice the California Garden says do as you please about subscribing to it as a present for a friend, and assures you that in any case it offers you all it can for a way out of the difficulties of your individual problem. A sane and a Merry Christmas to you.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

The Editor in Service

The publicist's job is as definite as the soldier's, for soldiers must be supported by the people at home, and there are fifty times as many people at home as there are on the fighting line.

The great American public must be informed on issues like food saving, war loans, relief work, war gardens, and industrial organization.

Here comes in the printed word, typically American, and in just the degree that the editor and writer makes the printed word forceful and interesting, and repeat day by day the fundamental war facts that must be kept before the American people, they are doing their "bit."

If the Germans had their way and could choose between the elimination of our Army on the western front, or the elmination of strong, constant war publicity in our daily press, they would undoubetedly choose the latter. For it is at least as important.

If they could even make the product of American editors and writers dull and mechanical, that would help their plans a lot.

Our job, as editors and writers, is to make these war issues clear and readable from day to day, and to present them to the public in ever fresh forms. In just the degree that we are able to do this now we are truly editors

and writers, and give a service adapted to our capacities and training.

JAMES H. COLLINS.

We have never pretended to that form of secret procedure so loved of the real editor and the oracle at Delphi so that it should surprise no one when we publish the above explicit stimulus and formula for editorial activity that has been sent out to all of the clan from Washington. Frankly we believe that there is but one issue before the United States today and that is the winning of this war, not the war alone, but the winning of it and so when Washington says to us "keep hammering away, don't let a soul you can reach forget for a minute this one essential job," we are inclined to do it.

Naturally we have asked a whole lot of folks to enlighten us about war issues and a few unenlightened ones have sought information from us and it has struck us with a feeling of relief that most people realize we are at war, this we infer from the universal individual statement that the other fellow has not realized it yet. One particularly perturbed person reported that the East was disgusted because the West either did not realize the situation or at any rate was not acting as it, the East, thought it should do. Another had heard that an informant had heard that New York was talking about the Germans winning. We here make another inference and that is the nation is getting solidified and preparing to pool its unexampled resources. The big danger is that the individual may be a trifle backward in following suggestions as to food conservation and other means the authorities deem to tend towards victory. It seems such a small thing for one to forego a chop or an extra lump of sugar but—and the rest you all know.

We are going to have an example, a national example of democracy as service; the service that does as you are told. Perhaps lots of us don't like that form of wording it. We are Free men and women, by hookey, and no one can tell us our business. Fellow citizens, we know you like that address, this statement is blatant and untrue, all human structure is built upon the code that he who knows tells the ignorant what to do and the latter does it or lives to rue. In this war business we, not some one else, have put in positions of special authority those whom we believe to know that they may tell us what to do, and every kind of a reason tells us to do it. This seems to be insisting on the obvious, you all know that perfectly well. Well, we are glad to hear it and will watch for the results.

We have received a lengthy news item about oil production, certainly a matter rather foreign to a garden paper, but watch the subtlety of this feminine attack on our space, for it was all about a woman's company, a photograph of a most charming lady was enclosed. We shall preserve the picture if it be not stolen, but cannot use the article.

Another letter is to hand showing by Biblical reference, Book, Chapter and Verse given, that the author of "The Song of San Diego had plagiarized without giving credit. It was our understanding when passing this communication for our October number that the author had made her model so obvious that it was acknowledgment enough, however, we were glad to find that some one had given this later song so close a study.

Here is a bright suggestion from an article on war gardens by John R. McMahon in November County Gentleman; "A censorshop of freak garden advice next year will be a boon. This applies to the advocates of the 'Potato Pile,' salad crops grown between mattresses of city flats, canning weeds instead of vegetables, stimulating plants with electricity, using the three-period canning method—and a lot of other wisdom emanating from rusty memories or evolved from active imaginations."

Are you planting that War Garden?

If you can't raise a pig, save one. You can do so by eating less pork.

Every cellar of vegetables is a trench of food preparedness.

One benefit of the war is that it has induced consumers to study foods and food values.

Serve your country by saving food.

Are you planting that War Garden?

Biddy, too, should get acquainted with the wheatless meal.

Formation of community hog cholera prevention associations is war organization not to be overlooked.

Straight furrows are straight shots for liberty.

Comfortable barns keep dairy cows warm far more cheaply than high priced feed.

Are you planting that War Garden?

General & Particular

By A. D. ROBINSON

ALL the other scribes who write for this California Garden are allowed Considerable latitude, the deal with the whole flower garden, or the vegetable patch, or go off for a good time into the brush, but when there is need of more matter at the last minute the Manager says to the Editor, "Get Robinson to give us a rose article," or specifies some other particular theme, and it happened this time; but it is Christmas and I have already been notified by many and sundry that they will send me neither socks nor neckties this year on account of conditions, so I also shall renege and wander around as I please in this effusion.

I am asked a great many questions, some of them in places and under circumstances that necessitate an answer confined to a wise look and a smile, and by far the most popular is one seeking information as to what to plant now to be a producer. This is brother Birch's department, and he always gives a long list to choose from, but my querists nearly all want to plant beans or potatoes and have been kind of peeved when I suggested that they had better wait three months or so. It is pleasing to find folks desirous of working on food gardens, who have never before realized that vegetables were not a peculiar product only possible to Chinamen or Japanese, but they must be sane. This last year should have taught many a lesson, and the vital one, that our soil wants something put in before you can get anything out. There is no disloyalty to our pleasant city involved in any truth and when the government of the United States as one of its first war measures took steps to secure fertilizer for the farmers at cost, to the amount of many millions of dollars, it surely is all right to say that fertilizer and lots of it is necessary to raise garden in San Diego. If you have the ground you can arrange for manure enough to give it a dressing from four to six inches deep all over, also hire to have it plowed or spaded as deep as possible directly it rains or when you have thoroughly irrigated it. I am waiting for rain as my water bill is a hair and blister raiser now. When you make a garden, raise the variety you want for your own table. This is much more helpful than making a failure of a bean or potato crop.

Another seeker for information wants to know what to do to his roses and almost hated me when I told him nothing at present. I know there are some roses in bloom, poor things, but also I have heard of an apple tree that got fooled by this unseasonably fine weather and has flowered out. Both of them will be sick pretty soon. You don't want to prune because a month hence the sap will be more in the root; and you don't want to water because stimulation of growth is unwise; and you won't plant until it rains, or move, or do anything, that is if you heed my advice.

Well what are you to do? That I can best answer by saying what I should be doing if my faithful assistant, for Lo these many years, were not nursing a Grippe, and other cogs in my garden machinery were not slipping.

I should be digging my dahlias and sorting them away under the trees where they always winter, and getting ready the beds by thorough spading and fertilizing for annuals, pansies and so forth, also dressing with lime pretty liberally. I should be digging my Montbretias which have got too thick and generally cutting out spent wood and stalk and this year collecting leaves and spreading a generous cover of them over the lath house beds. All the time I should be thinking about fertilizer, any kind, where to get it and how, and in the infrequent pauses kicking myself for not having a hundred Erica Melanthera in bloom and twice as many Acacia podarilifolia. About this leaf spreading in the lath house I argue thus, you can do as you please. I am trying to get a real woodsy condition and yet for years have been ass enough to sweep up all the leaves and cart them away so as to be a good housekeeper. What kind of a forest floor would there be if no leaves ever accumulated on the ground, and of such idiots are the lath house cult. I am sure that if a lath house bed were covered two inches thick with moss, begonias and ferns would frolic there. Of course the snail and slug would do likewise, but don't they cavort around anyhow?

Dear folks, there are signs of some hysteria. I would not have one grain of seriousness removed from realization of the crisis of today, but I don't agree with a statement I read recently recommending digging up rose bushes to plant cabbages as an expression of willingness to follow advice from on high, because I know that for fifty uprooted bushes there would only be twenty-five cabbages planted. Plant the cabbages between the rose bushes; they will like the shade. There is no merit accruing from digging up a rosebush. We all should do something, but it should be a sane something. If you are going to grow a war garden find out how to do it first, and don't go to school in another part of the country. San Diego is a law unto herself and is jealous of the distinction.

Are you planting that War Garden?

Christmas Greens

By Guy L. Fleming

CENTURIES ago, at this season of the year, the Celts gathered boughs of evergreens and of winter berrying shrubs and placed them in their homes as a shelter for the good spirits during the long, cold period. The mistletoe was the most sacred shrub and held the place of honor over the door; when found growing on the oak, which was a very rare occurence, it was particularly potent in its virtues, having the power to cure all ills. It was gathered by the Druid priests with great ceremony and distributed by them among the people with the greeting, "Au guy l' an neuf", "The gift of the oak for the New Year". The Celtic name for the oak was "guy".

The fir tree was the home of a very jolly imp who gave good things for the New Year. This imp was rather a shy fellow and was likely to run away when the tree was approached, unless those wishing to receive his bounty circled the tree quickly and danced about it to prevent his escape. We know him now as Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas.

Many years ago a poor widow went out onto the mountain to gather fallen branches for fuel to keep her sick son from freezing. As she struggled through the deep snow, hunting for the few tree fragments, she met a little old man, who pointed out to her a fir tree whose cones were of pure silver. Hence our Christmas tree, with its gifts.

There is a legend that the timbers in the ceiling of the Temple at Jerusalem were hewn from fir trees.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century the decorating of churches and homes at Christmas time was considered rather questionable, as smacking too much of paganism. But another hundred years found the custom fully established. Today a Christmas without its decorations would be a sorry affair. So great has become the demand for evergreens at this season that an industry of unbelievable magnitude has arisen. Hundreds of carloads of holly, mistletoe, evergeen boughs, ferns, and potted plants must be supplied, as well as the thousands upon thousands of trees. Already Christmas tree farms are being started in some sections.

Here in the Southland we might grow our Christmas trees in our door-yard, or in tubs, in which case they could be used for either outdoor or indoor ceremonies. What would give the children more joy than to own their tree, to care for it and to watch it grow.

Nurserymen and florists might find it profitable to rent trees. Good cut trees are becoming so scarce and so expensive that such a practice might relieve the situation. I will say nothing of the great waste and the drain on our future forests.

In Southern California we do not have the English holly, but we do have a good substitute in our "toyon", or California holly. This is gathered and its berries are mingled with the leaves of the scrub oak, the holly-leaved cherry, or the Oregon grape. But the way they are gathered! The principle method seems to be to scout around until the most gorgeously berried shrub is found, and then to deliberately, without exercising any great care as to the future appearance of the bush, break off every branch within reach. If you have an automobile collect all the berries in sight, at least all you can carry; there are very few people who enjoy seeing a full berried toyon on the hillside rather than a neat wreath suspended from the curtain of your front window. When you get home give generously to your friends of your find, select a few sprigs for your wreath, and throw the balance in the back yard for the garbage man to collect. Possibly, if you were to dump the left-overs on the can heap at the edge of the canyon in the course of time the gods might reward you by growing there a toyon.

Really though, the best way to collect holly, or any of the beauties from Nature's garden, is to go prepared, as we would in entering our own garden, or that of a friend who had invited us to gather flowers from his garden. Carry with you a pair of sharp pruning shears, and, when you find a shrub whose berries or flowers seem desirable, select a few of the choicest, cutting, in most cases, just above a bud that bears outward, in doing so you have given the shrub a chance to do its best toward producing pleasure for you another year. 'Tis likely the next visitor will make note of your work and so continue the good cause.

This method may be applied in gathering our native annuals. Collect only enough of each variety to make an attractive vase or basket, wrap them at once in damp cloth or paper, protecting from the sun and air. By so doing your flowers will give you several days of joy, and those that you left will have a chance to make seed, or to develop bulbs.

Where can there be any pleasure in gathering flowers by the armful, carrying them home in the hot sun and wadding, that is the word that will express it, the withering remains into a vase? Do you think that in that poor, wretched collection of withered leaves and sticks you can make your friends see the wonderful picture that greeted you on that mountain side?

It would be well for teachers, and others who have to do with children, to teach their

charges to preserve all nature's work, to gather material scientifically and to arrange it artistically. It is no more trouble to put a half dozen Indian pinks and a few sprays of wild oats in a vase than to cram a handful of shooting stars, pinks, and other flowers into a glass jar, but the former will give you a vision of a hillside of waving grasses and nodding flowers, whereas the latter—I'll let you describe it.

Personally I enjoy the gardens both natural and cultivated for themselves as a whole, and the best planned arrangement in vase or basket cannot give the pleasure I receive from some bit of Nature's Garden.

Aurelius Martin, in the following verse, gives us the true nature lover's attitude toward this matter. In speaking of one of our beautiful native lilies he says:

"I kneel to one here by the rocks
That just broke, in its morning of bloom
The pure alabaster box
Of noble and precious perfume;
I will leave this to live its bright day
And fill the whole place with its scent,
While I take but the pleasure away
Its beauty and fragrance have lent."

The Vegetable Garden

By Walter Birch

THIS is a good month for general pruning and cleaning up. Do not burn up or haul away any old bean or pea vines or other vegetable matter; dig them into the soil where they will do some good. If you have any deciduous fruit trees or grape and berry vines now is a good time to prune them. If your trees are young do not be afraid of giving them a liberal pruning. The first two or three years of a tree's life is the time to trim for shape and bearing capacity and many trees are spoiled by the owners being afraid to sacrifice wood at this time, and so the tree becomes a straggly, weak specimen, unable to support a good crop of fruit. When pruning always keep in your mind's eye the tree of ideal shape, and use your pruning shears to attain that end.

In the vegetable garden continue to plant all the hardy vegetable seeds and set out cauliflower, cabbage and kale plants. For rhubarb and asparagus prepare your ground by a deep digging in of a liberal supply of well rotted manure. For winter supply use Wagner's Giant Rhubarb and for summer Strawberry Rhubarb. Plant roots about three feet apart, and if your drainage is good water them liberally and you will cut rhubarb for the table inside of ninety days. Asparagus roots should be planted about two feet apart in rows three feet apart. If possible procure two-year-old roots, Conover's Colossal and Palmetto are the two best kinds and surely there is nothing more delicious than a nice dish of asparagus.

December is a good month to order your fruit trees and berry bushes. The J. H. Hale peach is being more talked of than ever. Trees planted in this neighborhood are now coming into bearing and the opinion is unanimous that it is by far the finest home peach on the market. It is a heavy bearer, ripens in July, fruit averages over a pound in weight, skin almost smooth, with plenty of color, flesh yellow and flavor unsurpassed. A truly splendid peach for eating off the tree or canning.

In these days of high cost of living it is worth while in choosing some of our ornamental trees to use trees of economic value as well as beauty. The Loquat Plum is distinctly ornamental as well as producing a fruit which is hard to beat for making jelly. The tree is an evergreen of symmetrical shape and fast growth and a valuable addition to the ornamental ground. Another tree well worth having is Ceratonia siligua, the Carob, or St. John's Bread; an evergreen tree of splendid appearance and wide use as an ornamental and of still greater value as a bearer of food for live stock. The foliage is handsome and the tree requires little or no pruning to keep it in good form, and will thrive in any soil with a minimum supply of water, but will stand much frost. It is handsome as a specimen tree in the yard or as a street tree. The fruit or pods is valuable for horses, sheep or cattle and is largely used for that purpose in some countries.

After many delays and mishaps the direct import shipments of Holland bulbs are now arriving, and although the quantity is short the quality is still there, and fortunately December is one of the best months for setting them out. There is nothing more attractive than a good bulb garden, and few things that make a quicker or braver show of blooms, provided you prepare your ground properly for them. If I remember rightly you will find instructions along those lines in the last two numbers of California Garden.

Are you planting that War Garden?

The best way to take care of our big potato crop is to eat it. Then we can send more meat and wheat to our own and the Allied armies.

A Department of Botany in Natural History Museum

FIDELLA G. WOODCOCK

THE efforts of the San Diego Natural History Society to co-ordinate research in plant life with that of animal life by specimens with records of the life history of the flora and fauna of San Diego county and adjacent Mexico, and also to give a worthy place to whatever is valuable to preserve, shows that, in its museum, San Diego as a city is willing to take a leading part among county seats in making museums and public libraries available to the needs of the people as centers of distribution.

In the construction of civic centers, whose influence radiates into the new scenic boulevards that to a certain extent lead to the destroying of much in the landscape that has a marked value for conserving the natural beauty of its floral sites, the recreative grounds in the parking system contribute largely to the protection of the dove and the quail in their natural haunts. But there is a danger of the neglect of the species wherever the present need of man appropriates for immediate uses the benefits of the land. In the long run preservation of points of vantage in the art of building pays more than mere expediency, for it is the stronghold of civilization to exercise care over the well-being of its representative life native to the zone.

The study of natural history of today offers a true basis for the cultivation of mesa lands. Knowledge of trees and tree planting in the contour of the land, technical knowledge of the care of crops, and grains, and forage, will do much to reduce the damages to property inflicted by the uncurbed waterways: it will keep at a minimum the expense of damsites in districts where desirable planting is in the order of universal economy to take the place of artificial restraints. For thrifty resources add character to the spiritual expression of the life of the community in its surroundings —the most beautiful spot in the world is that place which invites appreciation of the undersoul in its demands for earth, air, sunshine and the waterways independently of the call for food and raiment that the oversoul supplies with care or thought—creator and created are in harmony.

To stake off a house and lot and pay for the street improvements is a bare proposition in the hands of the tax collector, but to create a home among the living that will appease the heart-hunger of the living creature and that will at the same time pervade the world with the spirit of culture is a matter between the master mind and the manhood and womanhood of the race. Without overrating the possession of wealth for the purpose, the greater fitness is shown in the less display of art, for pure science contributes most to the good of all in the reduction of wants to the normal basis.

And it is here that the value of technical knowledge is most felt in the march of human progress—it gives the right direction to individual effort. In the study of plant culture its uses cannot be over estimated, for the conditions that produce the perfect flower or the perfect fruit, even by approximation, in the course of evolution, are to be sought in the science of man for skill in producing. The varying forms of the species from one age to another denote the intensive forces that are at work in the creation and re-creation of better life; and these are the forces that contribute so largely to maintain the equilibrium of world forces.

Classic names of the species with the system of classification of the different groups upon the analogy of family likeness is an interpretation of elemental truth as known to the mind of the ancients. Many of them to us of modern times seem obscure and often far fetched, a fault in folklore, but they are in honest record of seekers of truth for all time and for that reason are upheld as deserving a place in public service; most of the terms when understood express in simple, direct, representative language the observations of the investigators whose earnest desire was to give permancy to learning by the direct appeal of fact. Verification of species of plant life is the same for all time, but conditions are constantly changing; records of the evidence of these changes are always desirable to have and to hold.

The character of natural life is such that in the season when it is most prolific, specimens may be collected and a stand of native wild flowers, or of garden flowers or shrubs that have an exceptional interest may be had the year around in the museum and in the vestibule of the public library. There are two classes of people to whom this will make an appeal—those who love flowers for the sake of their beauty alone, and those who are finding in them the value of truth, and to meet the demand of the public who wish to become acquainted with them as individuals, labelling cards numbered with the member on the herbarium list of all the plants exhibited, or at least a card catalogue of the specimens can be used as for the books and pictures distributed for the benefit of public education in the reference room. References on the card catalogues would refer for special

study to the botanical records in the San Diego Museum of Natural History, where many books of rare value in lines of research can be consulted.

The waste of plants and plant life can be much reduced by finding the right place for planting, and the right one for the place, a question in physiography that dispenses with the idea that everything will thrive anywhere in California soil, if not, something is wrong with California. So great are the diversities of its soil and exposure affecting productive planting even within limited areas that more and more demand is made for technical knowledge of the differences in plant varieties and land areas, to the advantage of the producers. Any tree or flowering shrub that gains a hold upon the soil through its relations with what the poet calls "the fair democracy of flowers," is a member that gives character to environment and becomes an object of worthy inclusion.

Fitness to endure change and to profit by it is the test of the superiority of all living intelligence, an evidence of the mind that produces it, whether visible or invisible. It is not so much in the nature of what we call adaptation, or of natural selection, or of the fittest that in its more arbitrary sense is the reason of being—it is in the findings of material things that feed the inner consciousness that preserve its being and are the apparent reasons of growth that respond to the soul-wide hunger for the balance wheel of expression of the energy of life. When the monotony of growth is completely exhausted at its sources and the mind of the expert can no longer conceive of a way to restore it to normal vigor its life work is accomplished and its rank as a fossil landmark can serve in museums as an accurate solution of circumstances that are perhaps lost forever in what is past.

The similar origin of plant and animal life renders their preservation together indispensable, one is of little value without the other for by nature the dependence upon nature is changeable, but the beauty of the perfect flower is immortal.

The Flower Garden

Miss Mary Matthews

This month gives us plenty of work to be done in the garden. No need to be a slacker now, and if you have enlisted in the garden ranks you will have to work early and late to accomplish what there is for you to do.

Reports are that bulbs from abroad have been received, so as soon as your order is filled put your bulbs in at once, so that they may have the benefit from the rains and cool weather now so near.

The safest fertilizer for this class of plants is bone meal, used freely, sprinkled over the surface, and then lightly raked in where the rains will carry it down to the roots of the plants. If your soil is at all sour, good sprinkling of lime will often remedy it and also bring out the reserve nourishment in the ground.

Plant more sweetpeas, mignonette, or any quick blooming annuals you care for.

Prune deciduous shrubs which are through blooming. Loosen the soil and give them a good mulch of old strawy manure, dead leaves, etc. After the rain has come this month will be a good time to start cuttings of marguerites, geraniums, or any of the soft wooded plants. Put them in a moist, sandy spot.

If you have any of the fibrous-rooted iris, where the clumps have become matted, lift and divide them and plant in an open, sunny spot. Flood them at least once a month.

Schizanthus, gloxinias, and any of the tender plants can be started now in a box of sandy soil, placed in a warm, moist spot. The seeds will soon sprout and by the middle of January should be ready for transplanting. Keep them growing right along putting into larger boxes or pots as needed, and when well established feed with weak manure water.

There is a new impatiens sultani, or Zanzibar balsam, in the market now, with large pure white flowers. It is Impatiens Grandiflora Alba. If you can procure seeds of this, now would be a good time to start them. When handling the little seedlings do it carefully, as they are very brittle.

You can put in cuttings of any of the herbs you wish to grow, rosemary, lavender, or thyme. Of this latter, get, if possible, some of the lemon-scented. It is much sweeter than the old garden, or kitchen thyme.

After the first heavy rain numbers of your early blooming bulbs will appear above ground. From that time on till the blooming period is past, keep the ground well waterel and the soil loose. When bloom stalks appear use nitrate of soda very carefully.

If you have not yet decided what you want to plant in the early Spring for Summer blooms, begin now to read up. Study catalogs as they come in and place your orders early.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

I THOUGHT I knew what an expert was; that is a garden expert, but I did not till last month. Now you are smiling and wondering what I mean. Well, I don't mean just an expert gardener, one who can make things grow, nor an expert on lawns, or paths, or pools, or anything like that. There are lots of them and very useful and handy they are to have about the place, but a genuine dyed-in-the-wool, technically perfect, omniscient authority. I know I won't get anywhere except by taking you to call on my specimen.

Naturally we cannot intelligently consider this expert unless we know what he experts, so suppose for sake of argument we give him Begonias, and by the way he will not speak of them in that simple common method but refer to them as the "Begoniacea".

It's a Templini to a Vernon that the reputation of the expert has, as it were, hung over one as a cloud of knowledge for a long time, giving almost superhuman attributes, and finally the cloud will divide and the great one appear. No, you cannot have a description of personal appearance for there are experts in all colors and sizes, but their behavior is much the same whatever they expert.

Let us call it a him, though there are hers, and take him through our lath house. He will arrive attended and vouched for by mutual friends and admirers and after ordinary introductions will act for some ten minutes or so carelessly like other folks patting an animal, blowing his nose, casually inspecting a flower, a shrub, and allowing himself to be gradually drawn towards the lath house where lies his meat, if one may so vulgarly express it. I can see him now with gaze devoid of any expression standing poised in the doorway, apparently uncertain whether to go straight home or enter; then he will commence to circulate followed by the awe-struck owner in search of crumbs that may fall from the great one's observations. All the large family of Begoniacea are his familiar friends and this is the owner's chance to clear up all doubtful titles, so he asks what is the name of this? The expert looks him sternly in the eye and gives him the choice of three but refuses to make his own selection and makes veiled references to a card index that will remove all doubts. Later he throws off precious pearls of knowledge in an off-hand kind of way such as, "Do you know there is a begonia in the Andes with a tuber as big as your head that the natives feed to stock?" "There are sixty of the family of Begoniacea in the Philippines only six of which have been brought to this country," and his tongue will moisten his lips with longing for that fifty-four He shows a real interest in seed and accepts a few here and there, but his air is always that of an inspector and with X-Ray gaze he tabulates the few worthy things and the very plants will be blushing for their nakedness before he leaves.

If you have been good, which means properly respectful and asked the right number of question at the right time the great one may disclose human attributes. He has his troubles; if his green house is small he wants a larger one; if large, a smaller one; his help is careless or inefficient and he has to do other things beside nurse the Begoniacea.

You don't want to get to be a real expert; you cannot live up to your expertness. It is awful to be continuously treated as if you were responsible for a whole family of plants with ramifications all over the globe. It is terrible to be confronted with minor experts who have got in ahead of you in some small matter and worst of all it is only the humans who take stock of expertness. Some darned plants will just grow like weeds for a regular ignoramus who never heard of the family to which they belong and then sulk in the care of the real person. There are only a few experts, they must be, to tell us how to address our plants so we don't refer to them as "This here one" or Alice or Billy, and then they write books, compile card indexes where the secret crimes of each plants are tabulated and they are useful, but they keep collections rather than grow gardens. Long live the expert.

" PARTICULARISM" OR "SOLIDARITY"

"The war," said Lloyd George, the British prime minister, in a recent speech, "has been prolonged by particularism. It will be shortened by solidarity."

That is his own way of saying that it will take a united front to win, that every man, every woman, must put his very soul into the war. The question for each American today must be how he can help the government. This may interfere with personal business, it may interfere with daily routine; but particular interests today must stand aside. Our dollars, our men, our food supplies, our energy must be a unit of force behind our army and our allies. Solidarity alone can bring success.

Are you planting that War Garden?

Plant some California Wild Flower Seed this month.

Ramblings

(By H. E. Sies)

The present time finds me in somewhat of a reminiscent mood. Today I cut away the last of the withered tops and blooms of my chrysanthemums. What a halo of pleasant memories is connected with those withered tops. In my mind's eye I see again that gorgeous medley of colors, shapes and sizes, forming a mass of incomparable splendor and beauty.

The dahlias, too, what a treat they all have been. Just seems like some dear friends had paid me a visit, and with its ending had gone their way. I am glad they did not stay too long, for I may have wearied of their company. For instance, take the geranium. It is always hanging around, and in consequence it receives little or no attention and such a thing as a compliment is never heard of.

How often I have had the inquiry, if I knew or had anything that would bloom all the time. I would refer them to the geraniums, which always brings the reply that they are too common. So will the bloom of any flower become too common if we see it every day of the year. In fact, I do not believe that the majority of us appreciate and enjoy the sublime beauties of nature as do those who live where winter's chilly blasts strip and lay low the flowers and verdure of hill and valley mantling all in robes of spotless white. Then when the ice and snow were disappearing how we watched for the first little blooms of early spring, and the return of the robins, wrens and blue birds. I am indulging in a few childhood memories and enjoy them as such only. Southern California and especially San Diego is good enough for me.

I am well satisfied with this season's efforts, but see much room for improvement which I shall endeavor to carry out. The exhibit of dahlias and chrysanthemums at the Boston Store, October 24 and 25, was very satisfactory to all concerned, having had an attendance close to three thousand. It is the intention of the management and myself to carry it out on a much larger and more elaborate scale, next year.

Potting Plants

The following suggestions for potting plants, prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture for the use of high school teachers, will be helpful to any amateur gardener getting plants ready to bring into the house:

For potting plants the following equipment and material is needed. A work bench, suitable soil, a coarse soil sieve, a sprinkling can, a shovel, material for drainage, pots, and plants. The soil should be rich in plant food and should contain sufficient sand and organic matter to prevent any tendency for it to harden or bake upon drying. When moist, it should fall apart readily when squeezed in the hand. Equal parts of a good loam, clean sand, and well-rotted manure or compost, all worked through a coarse sieve, will prove suitable for ordinary work. The following may be considered essentials of good potting; (a) The soil should be moderately moist throughout; (b) the pots should be clean and soaked in water before using; (c) the pots should be of a size suited to the plant; (d) pots 4 inches in diameter and larger should be filled one-fourth full of pieces of broken pots to provide for drainage; (e) the plants should be placed at the proper depth and in the center of the pot; (f) the soil should be filled about the roots carefully by hand and then made compact by pressure with the thumbs; (g) the plants should be watered thoroughly after potting and then placed away from direct light for a day or two until they are established. If the soil has been properly compacted about the roots, it will be possible to remove the pot by turning it upside down and giving the edge a slight jar, the soil remaining compact. As the plants grow so that their roots fill the pots they should be shifted to large pots if they are intended for inside use. Practice in shifting may be given along with potting if there are pot-bound plants on hand.

High school teachers of agriculture who have not received the document dealing with home floriculture, may address the States Relations Service of this Department.

REMEMBER THE HEN

Farmers' Home Journal rises to speak a good word for the hen and her part in winning the war. "In all this talk about food production the humble hen should not be forgotten, because in a rush job she is in a class by herself," says this paper. 'She can produce food in the shape of eggs and meat and can reproduce herself more quickly than any other sort of live stock, and in doing it can use up more varieties of waste-food products."

Sugarless Fruit Cakes

Fruit Cake (Uncooked). Half a pound each of nuts, dates, figs, raisins, and citron put dates, figs and raisins through the food chopper. Grate in the yellow rind of one lemon. Then add the juice of the lemon and blend with a wooden spoon. Chop nuts fine. Cut citron into very fine strings. Pack closely into an oiled tin, alternating layers of fruit with nuts and citron. Press down closely, weight and leave at least 24 hours. Keep in closed cake box and slice as needed. Serve in small slices with a simple gelatine dessert.

This can be varied in many ways. Candied orange peel or grated cocoanut may be used in place of citron. Orange juice, or extract of cinnamon may be used instead of lemon. A drop of oil of cinnamon or ground cinnamon may be used with the above recipe.

This fruit loaf may be cut in strips, rolled in powdered sugar, and used as candy.

Dried Fruit Cake.—2 cups dried apples, peaches or any kind dried fruit. 2 cups Orleans molasses. ½ cup shortening, 2 eggs, 1 cup milk, flour for stiff batter, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 cup seeded raisins, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, ½ teaspoon ground cloves, juice of a lemon.

Soak the fruit overnight. Then chop very fine and simmer in the sausepan with the molasses for two hours and a half. Let it cool. Add beaten yolks of eggs to shortening and beat until light. Add the milk, then the fruit and molasses. Beat hard for five minutes. Now add enough flour for a stiff batter and soda dissolved in a tablespoon of hot water. Mix well. Then add the flour, raisins and spices and beat vigorously. Add the juice of lemon and finally the whites beaten to a stiff froth. The batter must be stiff but elastic enough to drop from spoon. Bake in moderate oven two hours.

Liberty Fruit Cake.—1 cup molasses, 1 cup water, 1 cup seeded raisins, ¼ cup citron cut fine, ¼ cup shortening, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 cup corn flour, 1 cup rye flour or white flour, 5 teaspoons baking powder.

Boil molasses, water, fruit, shortening, salt and spices together in saucepan three minutes. When cool, add flour and baking powder which have been sifted together. Mix well; bake in loaf pan in moderate oven about 45 minutes.

Apple Fruit Cake.—2 cups apple sauce (unsweetened), 2 cups Orleans molasses, ½ cup shortening, 2 teaspoons soda, 3 cups flour, 1 cup chopped raisins and citron, 1 teaspoon each allspice, nutmeg and cinnamon.

Simmer together the apple sauce and molasses until dark red or brown. Let cool and add shortening, soda, flour, floured fruit and spices. Bake in a slow oven from two to two and a half hours.

Introducing "Cuphea Micropetla"

I wonder how many plant lovers are acquainted with this beautiful sub-shrubby cuphea? I have been in quite a few "Gardens" in Southern California, but must confess have never seen this species planted as it ought to be by lovers of plant life. So I came to the conclusion that perhaps its merits as a flowering shrub may not be known generally, not even among nurserymen. I take this opportunity because of the beauty of this plant to let the readers of the "California Garden" know how it grows with us here at Beverly Hills. The specimen we have here is planted facing the blazing sun, and gets practically no water all summer; it is about four feet high and ten feet wide, and one mass of bloom since the last of July!

The flower is pink and yellow, and to see this shrub just before the sun sets, is a sight to be remembered.

Mr. Barnhart, the superintendent here, can vouch for this statement. It belongs to the family known as—Lythraceae— and is allied to the Lythrum. It is a native of Mexico, and easily propagated from cuttings, or seed. Of course some people don't care for it, for instance, a "gardener" came round here recently and I drew his attention to it; and asked if he knew it. He said he didn't. Then I asked what he thought of it as a flowering shrub, but he objected to the color of the flower. So you see one man's food is another's poison. I trust that all the readers of "California Garden" won't object to the color.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL,
Danziger Estate, Beverly Hills.

Watch the Meeting Dates, page 14

California Garden's Liberty Bond

Below is a list of the subscribers to the Liberty Bond for California Garden, seventeen in all, of which ten came from outside San Diego County.

The following is a memo accompanying the contribution of P. D. Barnhart:

"It was a happy thought of the fellow who bought a Liberty Bond for the endowment of California Garden. Instead of fifty dollars, it should have been five thousand, and to show my appreciation of the idea I am sending you six dollars, one for each member of my family."

It is too bad Brother Barnhart's family was not as large as his heart, for then the Bond would have been over-subscribed.

The list is still open.

R. F. Paine	$1.00
E. O. Hodge	1.00
L. J. Gage	1.00
A. D. Robinson	1.00
Stephen Connell	1.00
Mrs. Younkin	1.00
J. M. Danziger	1.00
Elizabeth N. Johnson	1.00
Mary A. Barnhart	1.00
J. M. Barnhart	1.00
Harry Barnhart	1.00
William Barnhart	1.00
Frank Barnhart	1.00
P. D. Barnhart	1.00
G. T. Keene	1.00
Iver N. Lawson	1.00
Mrs. I. N. Lawson	1.00

War Garden Results

Figures on 1917 war gardens have been compiled by the National Emergency Food Garden Commission and show not only remarkable results for this year, but give the greatest encouragement for next year's war gardens. The nation-wide survey located nearly 3,000,000 gardens, aggregating 1,150,000 acres of city and town land under cultivation. As these gardens were tilled intensively, and the products had relatively high value, being figured in terms of retail prices which would have otherwise been paid for food purchased elsewhere, it is estimated that their yield was valued at $350,000,000, or $17.50 per family. The glass-jar manufacturers sold about 119,000,000 canning jars this year, and a survey of the household canning in 20 typical towns throughout the country showed that housewives used but one new jar to over 3¼ old jars already on hand. On this basis the housewives of the country put up nearly 500,000,000 quart jars of vegetables and fruits, which is believed to be three times as much as was ever packed before. Besides actual results, there was a return in experience which will be valuable next year, for Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the commission, says that even if 25 per cent of the war gardens failed this year it is reasonable to suppose that not more than 10 per cent will fail next year because experience has taught them how to grow and pack garden stuff.

SUGAR TRIMMINGS

Reduce candy consumption to an after-dinner bonbon.

Omit icing from cakes and fancy breads.

Use fruit and nuts, candied honey or maple sugar for cake fillings.

Sweeten fruit drinks with honey or corn syrup.

If you must sweeten breakfast cereals, try figs, dates, raisins, syrup or a light sprinkling of maple sugar.

Use honey, corn syrup, dark syrup or maple syrup with hot cakes and in bread and muffins.

Try cakes that call for honey or syrup instead of sugar.

Tide over the sugar shortage by using now your jellies, jams, preserves, and fruits canned with sugar.

Replace white sugar candies with syrup candies, or sweets made from figs, dates, and raisins combined with nuts.

For dessert serve a fruit salad or fruit omelet; cream cheese with honey or fine preserves; fruit desserts with honey or just enough white sugar to bring out the fruit flavor.

"MEATLESS TUESDAY AND "WHEATLESS WEDNESDAY"

The manager of one large enterprise reports a saving of 14,000 pounds of meat every Meatless Tuesday. He operates 86 restaurants in which thousands eat. One metropolitan hotel saves 2,000 pounds of meat on Meatless Tuesdays and five barrels of wheat flour on Wheatless Wednesdays. Sea foods and poultry are served in place of beef, pork and mutton, and rye bread and corn bread instead of wheat breads. Some of the celebrated cooks have successfully substituted rice, corn, chestnut and potato flour for wheat in the making of pastries.

The thousands who have been served since these wholesale housekeepers signed the Food-Pledge take the innovation good naturedly. They read the handsomely embossed announcements giving the general plan of the Food Administration and search the war menus for new dishes. All the orders given on these days in all the restaurants and hotels added together are producing an impressive total of meat and wheat saved for shipping to our allies and the amount is growing steadily as the movement spreads.

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager
Office, 945 Seventh St., San Diego, Cal.

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Floral Association Meetings

Evening Meetings

December 18—With Mrs. Hutchinson, Seventh street, south of Pennsylvania. No. 1 car to Pennsylvania. Subject, "The Propagation of the Rose and Other Hardwood and Dormant Plants by Cuttings at This Season, December and January." Discussion by Mr. E. Benard, Mr. A. D. Robinson, Mr. Austin.

January 15—With Mr. Louis Blochman, corner of First and Thorn streets. Car No. 4. The Horticultural Commissioners' office will have charge of the evening, explaining "Insect Pests and Their Remedies." This will make a very interesting and vauable evening for all gardeners.

February 19—With Miss Hortense Coulter, corner Second and Spruce. Car No. 4. "Ferns, Fern Beds and Their Construction." Exhibit of specimens, both fresh and dried. Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Mrs. Fleetwood, Miss K. O. Sessions.

March 19—With Mr. M. Kew, corner Spruce and Sixth streets. Car No. 1 or No. 4 to Spruce. "Aquatics, and Their Culture; Pools and Their Construction." Mr. Davison, Mr. W. D. Page.

April 16—"City Park Development Through Private Donations." Mr. John McLaren, Mr. John Morley.

May 21—Japanese Views with Stereopticon by Miss T. H. Graham of Sierra Madre, Los Angeles county.

June 18—Annual meeting .

Out-of-Door Meetings

The December and January meetings will be omitted.

For February, March, April and May, will invitations be sent in for the January issue of the Garden.

NOVEMBER REGULAR MEETING

The Floral Association had an interesting meeting at the home of Mrs. Younkin, Twenty-ninth and University, on the evening of the 20th.

President Connell first introduced Miss Fidella G. Woodcock, who spoke on the subject of botanical exhibits in the Museum of Natural History and in the Public Library. An article by Miss Woodcock will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Garden. The idea is to interest and educate the general public in the correct names of native flowers and shrubs. They can be gathered in season, specimens pressed and proper names recorded. Perfection of bloom depends upon having natural conditions. Many plants are imported from other countries and gradually they become naturalized and we learn under what conditions they thrive best here.

Miss Sessions spoke very highly of Miss Woodcock's ability as a botanist and urged the Floral Association and Natural History Society to co-operate in the formation of a Botanical Society, hoping that the children of the county could be interested in a closer study of our native plants.

Guy Fleming said that Prof. Skilling, of the State Normal, and Principal Ross, of the Franklin school, are both very much interested in having wildflower exhibits placed in the library. Mr. Fleming and Miss Woodcock were appointed a committee to see what needs to be done to start the project.

Some of the members were a little bit alarmed for the safety of the Torrey Pines should the pueblo lands be turned over for marine drill grounds, but every one agreed that all that would be necessary to protect them was to be sure that the men of the service understood the history and value of the Torrey Pines.

Mr. Fleming brought up again the matter of seeing what could be done toward the planting of trees and shrubs at Camp Kearny. Miss Session suggested that trees might be planted along the paved streets and around the Y. M. C. A. buildings. After the second year the hardier trees will take care of themselves. The government provides for every other service but leaves out the gardener.

Mr. Birch has found that some of the officers are much interested in getting some plantings started, and believes they will appreciate any aid which the Floral Association might give.

President Connell appointed Mr. Birch, Mr. Fleming and Miss Sessions a committee to

see the commanding officers and offer the services of the association.

Several members brought seeds which were exchanged and also generously gave to those who had none to exchange. Miss Sessions brought a lot of petunia seed and suggests that petunias be planted in the parkings about town. She also brought seeds of the famous Palo Verde tree, which is so popular in Arizona. They are grown readily from seed and in a few years will add much to the beauty of San Diego.

TWENTY LATH HOUSES

Will twenty more owners please send in their names to Mrs. W. L. Frevert or Mrs. Thomas Kneale, by phone or postal, for the January Garden. Lath houses in the gardens of:

Miss Sibyl Anderson, 4476 Hortensia street, Mission Hills.

Mr. and Mrs. Becker, 2434 A street.

Miss Constance Bower, L street.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Connell, 1877 Lyndon Road.

Dr. and Mrs. F. R. Burnham, 3563 Seventh street.

Mr. and Mrs. Erskine Campbell, Loma Portal.

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Fleetwood, 2644 C street.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Frevert, 2535 First street.

Mr. and Mrs. Kneale, 4640 Massachusetts street, University Heights.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marston, 3575 Seventh street.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Naylor, 3520 Oregon street.

Mrs. Peace, Ocean Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Page, 1980 Alameda Terrace, Mission Hills.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Point Loma.

Miss Ellen Scripps, La Jolla.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scripps, Pacific Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Taylor, 1669 Torrance street.

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Williams, 3553 Fourth street.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Williams, 845 Walnut street.

Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Waite, 3021 Broadway.

LESSONS OF 1917

"Even war has its lessons of worth," remarks the Washington Farmer. "We have learned something about how to save foods. We have not learned it all, but we have started in earnest, and when we start in earnest we accomplish something. We have learned something about how to economize on labor and that is a great lesson and worth much money to us in these times of scarcity of help. We have learned something of how to get bigger yields off the same amount of ground, and we have learned that it pays to do it."

SNIPE THE SNIPER

Somebody is trying to snipe the canned goods of the American housewife. Now when the German snipers get busy on the western front, the boys are sent out to snipe the snipers. The women might try their hands at sniping these snipers of some canned fruits and vegetables. Reports have been steadily circulated that the government will take over all home-canned goods in excess of family needs or levy a special tax on it. The Department of Agriculture and the Food Administration have repeatedly denied the story. Newspapers and farm journals have contradicted it, and still keeps bobbing up.

The latest form of this sniping of food supplies is the report that home-canned fruits and vegetables are causing food poisoning. None of these stories have any basis in fact. The reports may be put out to cover the work of thieves who are trying to frighten the women into giving up their supplies, or they may have their origin in German propaganda, or both causes may help to circulate the story.

Surely no sensible woman will be frightened into emptying her shelves for thieves, nor will she doubt her ability to tell when a can of fruit is "working". The best answer the women can make to this ugly propaganda is to refill the jars and thus snipe the sniper. many things are available for canning in small quantites—pumpkin, squash, carrots, parsnips, spinach, turnips and in the far south many summer vegetables.

The food situation grows more serious. If the home-pantry is filled, start a neighborly shelf. There will be dire need of food among our own people before the winter is over. Many a soldier's family will need help. Hungry neighbors serve the enemies' cause. So fill up the jars and snipe the sniper.

1917 PUMPKIN PIE

1 cup molasses.

1 quart cooked pumpkin.

grated peel 1 lemon

½ teaspoon each nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon.

4 eggs.

Heat the molasses and stir into the pumpkin; add the seasoning and beaten yolks of the eggs. Mix well; add the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs. Bake in a pudding dish. Serve cold. Mashed sweet potato may be used in place of the pumpkin if thinned with one and a half cups of milk.

Corn Meal Crust—Grease a pie tin. Cover it with dry cornmeal. Fill with pie mixture can reproduce herself more quickly than any semi-solid filling. Pastry may be omitted altogether and the custard baked as a pudding.

Anyway, cottontails can serve the nation better in rabbit pie than by gnawing fruit trees.

HEROIC WOMEN OF FRANCE

(By Dr. Alonzo Taylor)

From an address delivered recently in Washington under the auspices of the U. S. Food Administration.

My words are not powerful enough to do even scanty justice to the most heroic figure in the modern world, and of ages past—the woman of France.

Of the healthy men who are not engaged in the military service in France, practically all are engaged either in transportation or in the manufacture of munitions, leaving the agriculture absolutely to the women. Not only this, but they have stepped into the place of work animals; you can go into any section of France today and see women of magnificent, noble womanhood hitched to the plow and cultivating the soil. All of the agriculture rests upon their shoulders. The home, always an extremely efficient home, maintains a few old men, the wounded and the tubercular. Uncomplaining, with high devotion, with an attitude that amounts almost to religious exaltation, the woman of France bears the burden.

Now, conditions being as they are, does it lie within the heart of the American people to preserve and hold to every convenience of our life at the expense of adding an additional burden to the womanhood of France? This is the exact question that is involved in our substitution of other cereals in place of wheat.

The women of France must be enabled to hold up the morale of the French soldier until next spring. The morale of the house decides the morale of the soldier in the fighting line. We can do this by giving them the greatest possible freedom in their food supply, and of this wheat is the chief factor.

TO SAVE KITCHEN UTENSILS

Thirty manufacturers of kitchen utensils have issued an appeal to conserve pots and pans as much as possible on account of scarcity and cost of metals. Hotel men have responded by issuing the following suggestions to their kitchen employees:

Don't heat foods in a pan without water.

Don't use coarse scouring powders.

Handle kitchen utensils with care.

Soap and water are the most economical and easiest cleansers, also they are far less damaging to the hands.

Buy shapes and sizes that can be used for many different purposes.

Don't scrape pots and pans with sharp knives. Soak them instead.

Corn bread is worthy of a place beside the Christmas turkey.

Food for our Allies is ammunition for the first line of defense.

It is better to send pork to the Allies than indemnity to Germany.

Tremble for Safety of Syracuse

WE have read of a place to store treasure where thieves do not break through and steal and we need the address badly for bold marauders are depopulating the chicken roosts in our neighborhood. For many nights Syracuse, Realization and other Stars of the first magnitude have been removed from their pens and carefully filed away for future reference, but the position is uncomfortable to say the least of it. Pauperized by the feed man, worried almost to death by the thieves, we shall be easy victims for YOU, so come and buy chickens. Give them as Christmas presents to your children and then eat the eggs yourself, so shall ye be real conservationists.

It is only fair to add that an old soldier cunning with firearms patrols the yards at night with instructions to shoot for legs and then holler. He has asked, "What will they do to me if I cripple one?" To which we replied, "We are concerned more with what you will do to them if they come hen-gathering; may your hand be steady and your eye keen."

Hoover expresses a hope for corn at half the present price. If you side with him you will need some pullets. We are rather afraid the chicken man has been an easy mark so long that he will remain IT. Merry Christmas to you. May you have fresh eggs if you patronize Rosecroft.

Rosecroft Barred Rock Yards

Alfred D. Robinson **Point Loma, Cal.**

Have YOU read—

"The Last Mile Stone"

This delightful story by one of San Diego's best known women, Emma R. Saylor, head of the Fredericka Home, is a charming love story, full of human interest and good cheer. Don't miss it. Other new *PAUL ELDER* publications just received.

We have a new shipment of ROOKWOOD POTTERY that is a feast for the eyes. No California Gardener should fail to see these lovely things.

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